



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Christmas Tree Harvest In Full Swing Pastures In West Improve With Rain While East Remains Dry

Field Crops

Additional moisture and better growing conditions benefitted the winter wheat crop. Some wheat has not emerged, but much of what has emerged was smaller than normal for this time of year. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing as wholesale buyers raced to get trees on retail lots the day after Thanksgiving. Christmas tree growers report a strong demand for all species.

Livestock

In eastern Washington, producers brought cattle off of summer range and into the lower areas for the winter and continued to move calves to market. In central Washington, cattle have continued to graze due to mild weather and no snow cover. Producers were also providing supplemental feed and hauling water. In western Washington, heavy rainfall in the early part of the week followed by unseasonably warm temperatures, resulted in some growth of pastures. In Grays Harbor County, dairy producers continued applying liquid manure on forage fields that had lighter soils.

Fruits and Vegetables

Organic truck farmers finished seeding cover crops and were taking the last of their produce to farmer's markets. Turfgrass growers continued to report strong sales due to nearly ideal conditions for landscape installation.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.5
Last Week	4.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	43	35	7
Subsoil	11	43	46	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	0	12	88	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	96	95	100	99
Potatoes Harvested	100	99	100	100
Corn Harvested	90	68	87	86

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	3	17	58	20	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Copious amounts of rain early in the week quickly filled local streams and rivers. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing with growers reporting a strong demand for all species. Livestock producers reported the unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in some forage growth in pastures. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure on forage fields that had lighter soils. The unseasonably warm temperatures made it almost seem like spring!

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Rainfall pattern of "below normal" continued. Stream levels were very low for this time of the year. Conditions were favorable for the Christmas tree harvest.

Pierce/South King: The weather has been normal for this time of the year. Crop

conditions remained normal and there were no unusual conditions to report.

Skamania: November precipitation was about 1/7 of normal.

Thurston: A peaceful tranquility settled upon the rural landscape throughout the county, as the winter season arrived. Organic truck farmers finished seeding cover crops and were taking the last of their produce to farmer's markets. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing as wholesale buyers raced to get trees on retail lots the day after Thanksgiving. Heavy rainfall in the early part of the week followed by unseasonably warm temperatures, resulted in some growth of pastures. Turfgrass growers continued to report strong sales due to nearly ideal conditions for landscape installation.

Central

Benton: Early pruning, weed control, and rodent control were major agricultural activities.

Douglas/Chelan: The recent cold weather has stressed the winter wheat crop; however, the small amount of moisture received in prior weeks significantly helped the crop's condition. The county has been experiencing mild weather conditions for this time of the year (no snow cover). Cattle continued to graze due to these conditions. Most livestock producers were providing supplemental feed

for their cattle, as range and pasture conditions were poor.

Okanogan/Ferry: Range conditions were poor. Some producers were hauling water due to water sources being either low or not running.

Yakima: Average temperatures were warmer than normal, ranging from 1 to 16 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop damage was reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Above normal temperatures and a few showers allowed winter wheat to grow a little. There were still some wheat that has not emerged, and much of the wheat that has emerged was smaller than normal for this time of year. The wheat was also set back by the freezing temperatures in late October and was still struggling to recover. Moisture was still below normal and more precipitation is needed to end this drought. Pastures were in poor condition due to the drought, as producers brought cattle off of summer range and into the lower areas to feed for the winter. Producers who have been grazing CRP land were hoping for an extension so that the normal winter pastures can be rested.

Stevens: Moisture was received early in the week. The weekend brought the return of cold temperatures and clear skies. Cattle producers continued moving calves to market.

Whitman: Additional moisture and better growing conditions benefitted the winter wheat crop and late seeded wheat was emerging. Most livestock operations were providing supplemental feed and hay.

Whitman (2nd Report): Warmer than normal temperatures persisted throughout the week with some light showers and foggy conditions. It is hoped that the warmer conditions will help with the emerging winter wheat. Fall tillage work was nearly complete for the year.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
November 25, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	30	62	49	7	10	10	0	0	1.89	0.67	3	5.13	-4.19	55	29
Everett	35	62	49	7	10	7	0	0	0.10	-1.10	3	3.63	-5.45	40	31
Hoquiam	40	61	50	5	12	5	0	0	2.99	0.47	3	9.62	-7.86	55	31
Kelso	36	61	51	8	12	5	0	0	0.30	-1.34	2	3.34	-8.00	29	23
Olympia	36	58	47	7	4	-1	0	0	1.20	-0.82	3	4.81	-8.11	37	27
Seattle-Tacoma	35	63	50	7	11	4	0	0	0.47	-0.99	3	4.58	-5.11	47	24
Shelton	34	57	48	5	8	1	0	0	2.30	-0.27	3	7.21	-9.00	44	22
Tacoma	30	61	49	7	6	3	0	0	0.17	-1.32	3	2.91	-7.01	29	22
Vancouver	41	64	51	9	12	5	0	0	0.18	-1.31	2	3.37	-6.38	35	21
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	22	56	42	9	0	-7	0	0	0.04	-0.26	3	0.80	-1.16	41	14
Omak	29	52	43	12	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	1.08	-1.84	37	9
Stampede Pass	30	48	39	12	0	0	0	0	2.23	-0.82	5	7.56	-11.88	39	28
Wenatchee	30	54	45	11	1	1	0	0	0.61	0.33	1	1.72	0.00	100	14
Yakima AP	24	63	46	10	4	3	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.56	-1.10	34	5
NORTHEAST															
Colville	21	53	44	11	0	0	0	0	0.46	-0.24	3	2.62	-1.83	59	13
Deer Park	23	56	43	11	1	1	0	0	0.45	-0.22	2	3.33	-0.65	84	21
Spokane AP	24	57	42	10	0	0	0	0	0.30	-0.26	3	2.43	-0.96	72	16
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	31	56	45	11	0	0	0	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	0.46	-1.13	29	6
Moses Lake	22	55	45	10	0	0	0	-1	0.07	-0.21	2	0.58	-1.01	36	9
Quincy	28	57	46	12	2	-1	0	0	0.05	-0.23	3	0.66	-1.12	37	10
Ritzville	28	57	45	11	0	-4	0	0	0.15	-0.27	2	1.29	-1.31	50	13
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	27	67	48	9	11	4	0	-1	0.08	-0.20	2	0.70	-0.81	46	10
Pasco	27	63	48	8	11	4	0	0	0.11	-0.17	3	0.53	-1.19	31	11
Pullman	32	59	43	8	3	3	0	0	0.23	-0.44	3	2.10	-2.40	47	20
Whitman Mission	26	64	46	7	4	-3	0	0	0.30	-0.15	4	1.58	-1.55	50	19
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	28	59	45	9	2	2	0	0	0.95	0.11	4	4.03	-1.35	75	16
Lewiston ID	35	61	48	9	5	5	0	0	0.20	-0.08	4	1.91	-0.68	74	22

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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